

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 17 and 18, to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer comprising:

fluid blowing means for blowing fluid onto a cornea to deform the cornea;

measuring-light projecting means for projecting measuring light onto the cornea;

corneal deformation detecting means for detecting the measuring light reflected by the cornea when the cornea is deformed by the fluid so as to have a predetermined curvature radius;

calculating means for calculating intraocular pressure on the basis of the detection by the corneal deformation detecting means;

control means for controlling ~~[[a]] measuring operation~~ operations of the noncontact tonometer performed sequentially a predetermined number of times; and

comparing means for comparing the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means for each of the predetermined times with a predetermined limit,

wherein the control means gives a warning if the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means for at least one of the predetermined number of times exceeds the predetermined limit.

2 - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the control means adds a predetermined number of measurements depending on the comparison by the comparing means.

6. (Original) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the control means comprises notifying means for notifying an operator of the comparison by the comparing means.

7. (Original) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the fluid blowing means comprises fluid control means for controlling the force of the fluid blown onto the cornea for varying the force of the blown fluid depending on the comparison by the comparing means.

8. (Previously Presented) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the measuring operation utilizes pupil-position sensing means for alignment, corneal bright-point detection means for close alignment, a solenoid for driving, and the corneal deformation detecting means.

9. (Previously Presented) A noncontact tonometer according to Claim 1, wherein the measuring operation utilizes pupil-position sensing means for alignment, corneal bright-point detection means for close alignment, a solenoid for driving, the corneal deformation detecting means, and notifying means for notifying the operator of the comparison by the comparing means.

10 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer comprising:

fluid blowing means for blowing fluid onto a cornea to deform the cornea;

measuring-light projecting means for projecting measuring light onto the cornea;

corneal deformation detecting means for detecting the measuring light reflected by the cornea when the cornea is deformed by the fluid so as to have a predetermined curvature radius;

calculating means for calculating intraocular pressure on the basis of the detection by the corneal deformation detecting means;

control means for controlling ~~[[a]]~~ measuring ~~operation~~ operations of the noncontact tonometer so as to measure right and left eyes sequentially a predetermined number of times, respectively; and

comparing means for comparing the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means for each of the predetermined number of times with a predetermined limit,

wherein the control means stops the measuring ~~operation~~ operations after completion of the predetermined number of measurements of the eyes under measurement if the intraocular pressure obtained by the calculating means for at least one of the predetermined number of measurements exceeds the predetermined limit.

18. (Currently Amended) A noncontact tonometer comprising:

a measuring unit adapted to measure an intraocular pressure of a first eye; and

a control unit ~~adapted to control~~ for controlling a movement of the measuring unit to sequentially measure an intraocular pressure of a second eye after measuring the intraocular pressure of the first eye;

wherein the control unit terminates a measuring operation without causing the measuring unit to move to measure the intraocular pressure of the second eye if the measured intraocular pressure of the first eye exceeds a predetermined limit.

19. (Previously Presented) The noncontact tonometer according to claim 18, wherein the measuring unit includes;

a fluid blowing unit adapted to blow fluid onto a cornea to deform the cornea;

a measuring-light projecting unit adapted to project measuring light onto the cornea;

and

a corneal deformation detecting unit adapted to detect the measuring light reflected by the cornea deformed by the fluid.

20. (Previously Presented) The noncontact tonometer according to claim 18, wherein the control unit controls a display of a message if the measured intraocular pressure of the first eye exceeds the predetermined limit.

21. (Previously Presented) The noncontact tonometer according to claim 18, wherein the control unit controls the measuring unit to additionally measure an intraocular pressure in response to activation of a measurement start switch, if the measured intraocular pressure of the first eye exceeds the predetermined limit.

22. (Previously Presented) The noncontact tonometer according to claim 18,

wherein the control unit controls the movement of the measuring unit in response to activation of a movement switch, if the measured intraocular pressure of the first eye exceeds the predetermined limit.